

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-01

PA-01 PRS-01 IO-10 GSA-01 /112 W
----- 057175

R 161525Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0727

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CONAKRY 0705

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN BE GV IT

SUBJECT: EXPLOITATION OF DIAMONDS IN GUINEA

REF: CONAKRY 1158, JULY 18 1943 (NOTAL)

1. BELGIAN CHARGE VERMAUT TOLD US MAY 16 THAT GUINEANS NOW VERY CLOSE TO FORMING MIXED COMPANY TO EXPLOIT GUINEA'S DIAMOND DEPOSITS. COMPANY WILL STILL INCLUDE PARTICIPATION OF GOG AND BELGIUM FIRM S.A. BASSE SAMBRE, WITH ADDITION OF PRIVATE ITALIAN CONCERN WHICH WILL PROVIDE NECESSARY CAPITAL. BELGIUM FIRM'S CONTRIBUTION WOULD CONSIST OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN OPERATION OF MINES.

2. GUINEA'S DIAMOND DEPOSITS, ACCORDING TO VERMAUT, ARE LOCATED NEAR TOWN OF BANANKORO IN DISTRICT OF KEROUANE. EXPLOITATION OF DIAMONDS WILL NOT PRESENT SAME MAJOR PROBLEMS, OBVIOUSLY AS EXPLOITATION IRON ORE OR BAUXITE. MINING CAMP WILL HAVE TO BE CONSTRUCTED, AS WELL AS IMPROVEMENT OF DIRT TRACK OVER MOUNTAINS

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BETWEEN BANASDRO AND KISSIDOUYOU (PAVED ROAD RUNS BETWEEN

KISSIDOUGOU AND CONAKRY). SOME EQUIPMENT REPORTEDLY ALREADY
IN PLACE FROM PREVIOUS VENTURES.

3. ACCORDING VERMAUT, GUINEAN DIAMONDS ARE HIGH QUALITY;
WILL BE USED FOR JEWELRY AND NOT INDUSTRIAL USE. ITALIAN CONCERN
INVOLVED (WE DO NOT KNOW NAME) REPORTEDLY INTENDS MARKET DIAMONDS
IN FLORENCE.

4. VERMAUT EXPECTS THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED FORMING MIXED
COMPANY WITHIN NEXT TWO WEEKS.

5. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP TO OBTAIN FURTHER DETAILS INCLUDING
EXTENT OF INVESTMENT AND ANY POSSIBILITIES US PARTICIPATION,
IF THERE IS INTEREST.
MACDONALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIAMONDS, EXPLOITATION (NATURAL RESOURCES)
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750173-0849
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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TAGS: EMIN, BE, GV, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006